

BUTTER
By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



Butter is a quirky film about family, support and what is important in life. It is about a foster child who has been around the caregiver block more than a few times. She finally lands in a state where carving figures out of butter is a competitive sport, and she discovers that she has a real knack for it. The movie is as rich and creamy as the blocks of churned milk that make up some pretty amazing images. Who knew butter was such a good material for sculpting? I didn't.

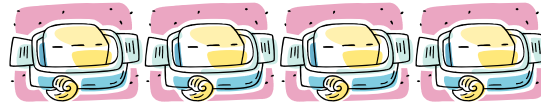
There's a lot to like about the stereotypical couple. Jennifer Garner shows both comedic and dramatic talent, and Ty Burrell plays it straight as her butter-sculpting, award-winning husband. He has to leave competition and step out of the spotlight for once after it is suggested that the competition he dominated for years should be opened up to others. The changes that happen as a result of

adults letting go of the need to win at all costs changes everyone's lives, reminding us that being a winner has nothing to do with prizes, contests or competition. It has everything to do with character, persistence and integrity. Hugh Jackman gives a riotous cameo that goes completely against type.

Butter challenges all kinds of prejudices and holds up true colors for everyone to admire, leaving a good taste all around. Children have a way of melting away what is false and bringing truth to our lives. Foster children are particularly good at it. Sometimes it takes changes in society to make changes in people. Accepting new members into our homes, our lives and our communities is a unique challenge that does not always go as well as this.

Butter is not playing in theaters but is available through internet subscription sites. It may also be on your local cable channel. If you like funny movies that deal effectively with some serious topics, then *Butter* up the popcorn and enjoy the show. What they can sculpt out of a semi-solid substance is pretty amazing. I suppose the metaphor is that we would be wise to remain malleable to whatever life has in store so we can transform ourselves into what we want to be.

I give *Butter* four delicious pats.*



*When my column was titled "On the Couch", I used couches as my rating system. Now after seven years, I have pretty much used most of those images. So, from this review forward, I will identify an image specific to the movie I am reviewing. The rating scale is from one to five. One image means don't go. Two is go only if nothing else is playing but at your own risk. Three means a good matinee but not worth the full price. Four is a good one to see in or out of the theaters but see it. Five is worth the full price of admission at any theater.